

# Survey and Manage Fact Sheet Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

## *Background*

In 1994, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service adopted standards and guidelines for the management of late-successional and old-growth forest related species within the Northwest Forest Plan. The key elements of the Northwest Forest Plan are its system of reserves, the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, and various standards and guidelines affecting each of seven different land allocations. Mitigation measures for hundreds of rare and little known species were also included in the Northwest Forest Plan as the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines. These Standards and Guidelines call for the management of known species sites, site-specific pre-habitat disturbing surveys, and/or landscape level surveys for these rare and little known species. In 2001, the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines were revised to clarify language, eliminate inconsistent or redundant practices, and establish an annual species review process.

The decision to prepare the SEIS came as a result of a settlement of a lawsuit that involved the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Douglas Timber Operators. In their lawsuit, the Douglas County Timber Operators claimed the Survey and Manage provisions are excessive and unwarranted because they violate the Oregon and California Lands Act and are beyond the authorities or intent of the National Forest Management Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

## **The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Analyzes Three Alternatives:**

- Alternative 1 would maintain the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines currently in place for the 304 species and 4 arthropod guilds (guilds are a grouping of like species).
- Alternative 2, the proposed action, would remove the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines and rely on existing agency Special Status Species Programs to conserve rare and little known species. A total of 130 species would be added to one or more of the Special Status Species Programs. The following table displays how many of species will be added to each program. The numbers do not total 130 because a species may be included in more than one program.

Number of Survey and Manage species that would be on Special Status Species Lists							
BLM Oregon/Washington		BLM California		Forest Service Region 6		Forest Service Region 5	
Previous	New	Previous	New	Previous	New	Previous	New
26	41	1	43	13	42	6	20
67		44		55		26	

- Alternative 3 would blend components of the current Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines and agency Special Status Species Programs. The 278 species in the “Rare Category” of the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines would continue to be managed under those guidelines. The 26 species in the “Uncommon Category” would be managed under the agencies existing Special Status Species Programs. A total of nine species would be added to one or more of the Special Status Species Programs. The table below shows how many species would be added to each program. The numbers do not total nine because a species may be included in one or more program.

Number of the 26 Uncommon Category Survey and Manage species that would be on Special Status Species Lists							
BLM Oregon/Washington		BLM California		Forest Service Region 6		Forest Service Region 5	
Previous	New	Previous	New	Previous	New	Previous	New
3	0	0	5	2	3	2	0
3		5		5		2	

## The Highlights of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Are:

### Consequences to Species and Guilds

	Alternative 1 (Current Status)	Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)	Alternative 3
High Risk of Extirpation (loss of species in some areas) caused by things such as limited potential habitat and few populations on federal lands, potential for stochastic events (fires, windstorms), low number of individuals, limited distribution, and specialized habitats.	137	137	137
High Risk of Extirpation due to actions under the alternative	0	47	7
Not at High Risk for Extirpation	141	94	133
Insufficient Information to Determine Risk	30	30	31

The high risk of extirpation caused by management actions under Alternatives 2 and 3 can be eliminated through mitigation. Mitigation measures would involve the management of known sites and conducting pre-project clearance surveys for species that require pre-disturbance surveys.

### Cost of Implementation

	Alternative 1 (Current Status)	Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)		Alternative 3	
		Un-mitigated	Mitigated	Un-mitigated	Mitigated
Short-term Annual Cost (\$ Millions)	\$25.9	\$7.5	\$8.1	\$11.8	\$11.8
Long-term (10 years) Annual Cost (\$ Millions)	\$15.3	\$7.1	\$7.7	\$9.2	\$9.2

### Impacts on Timber Outputs and Forest Health

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2		Alternative 3	
		Un-mitigated	Mitigated	Un-mitigated	Mitigated
Effect on Annual Timber Harvest (The current Probable Sale Quantity (PSQ) is 805 million board feet (MBF))	-130	-30	-40	-55	-55
Hazardous Fuel Treatment (Annual Acres)	134,100	158,200	156,500	153,500	153,500
Hazardous Fuel Treatment (Cost to Protect	\$134	\$39	\$44	\$52	\$52

Species/Acre)					
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**What Alternative does the Forest Service and BLM Prefer?**

The BLM and the Forest Service have identified Alternative 2 as the proposed action, with mitigation for 47 species to eliminate the high risk of extirpation. The agencies prefer Alternative 2 with mitigation because:

- 1. It conserves rare and little known species to the same degree as the other alternatives.
- 2. It costs \$17.8 million dollars per year less in the short term and \$7.6 million per year less in the long term than continuing to implement Survey and Manage. The cost per acre for protecting species while treating hazardous fuels is \$90 less than continuing to implement Survey and Manage.
- 3. The Northwest Forest Plan PSQ is 805 MMBF. Under Alternative 2 with mitigation, the timber harvest would be reduced by 40 MMBF as opposed to the current 130 MMBF reduction currently taking place.